



National Particle Accelerator Open Day 2023: Summary and Feedback

Haroon Rafique, on behalf of the organising committee

IOP PAB Annual Conference
11.06.24



ISIS Neutron and
Muon Source

National Particle Accelerator Open Day 2023

Rutherford Appleton
Laboratory, Oxfordshire

30 October from 12:00

Machines of Discovery Unveiled

Showcasing careers and study opportunities
in Accelerator Physics and Engineering

- Tours of ISIS Neutron and Muon Source and Diamond Light Source!
- Career journey talks and discussion panel covering graduate, PhD, and industry.
- Guest speakers from CERN and The John Adams Institute.
- Employers' exhibition showcasing career and further study opportunities.
- Buffet lunch, coffee/tea, and drinks reception in the evening.

Attendance is **FREE** but places are limited.

Register online by scanning the QR code or visiting
acceleratoropenday.co.uk



ISIS Neutron and
Muon Source



- **Recruitment** event to showcase **opportunities in Accelerator Engineering and Physics at postgraduate level.**
- **Aimed at undergraduate students** in engineering and physics.
 - Attended by mix of undergrads, postgrads, professionals
- **Advertised via** university staff / departments via **email or poster**, and others on **social media** via IOP PABG and STFC.
- **Registration via Eventbrite** – limited to 150 people due to venue and tours.
 - Registration open 4 – 1 week prior to event.
 - ~130 registrations.
- **Website** developed by STFC Digital Infrastructure.

Poster designed by Steph Richardson, STFC ISIS

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

An aerial photograph of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory complex. The image shows a large, sprawling industrial and research facility with numerous buildings of various sizes and colors, including several prominent blue-roofed structures. A large, circular, silver-colored building is a central feature. The complex is surrounded by green fields and trees, with a road visible in the lower-left corner.

Diamond Light Source

ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

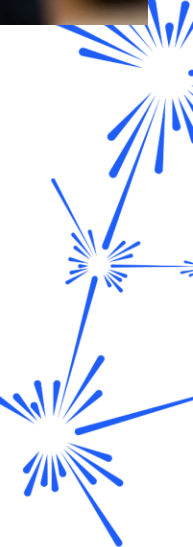
12:00	Buffet Lunch & Employers Exhibition	
12:45	Welcome	Prof. D. Newbold
13:00	Introduction	Prof. P. Burrows
13:15	Tour #1	
14:30	Coffee & Employers Exhibition	
14:50	Career Paths – STFC Graduate Scheme	H. Popland
	Career Paths – PhD	Dr. K. Dewhurst
	Career Paths – Industry (FMB Oxford)	L. Wang
15:30	Tour #2	
16:45	Career Paths Panel Q&A Drinks reception finishing at 19:00	

Programme



Welcome and Introductory Talk

- Prof. Dave Newbold, Director National Labs, STFC
- Prof. Phil Burrows, Director John Adams Institute



Employers Exhibition

- 10 Institutes / Employers
 - Cockcroft Institute
 - John Adams Institute
 - CLF
 - EPAC
 - XFEL
 - ISIS
 - Diamond
 - CERN
 - PPD
 - STFC Early Careers
 - Surrey Ion Beam Centre
 - University of Southampton

- 6 Industry employers
 - Shakespeare Engineering
 - Microwave Amps
 - Teledyne e2v
 - FMB Oxford
 - Rapiscan
 - Elekta

- 40 – 60 exhibitors



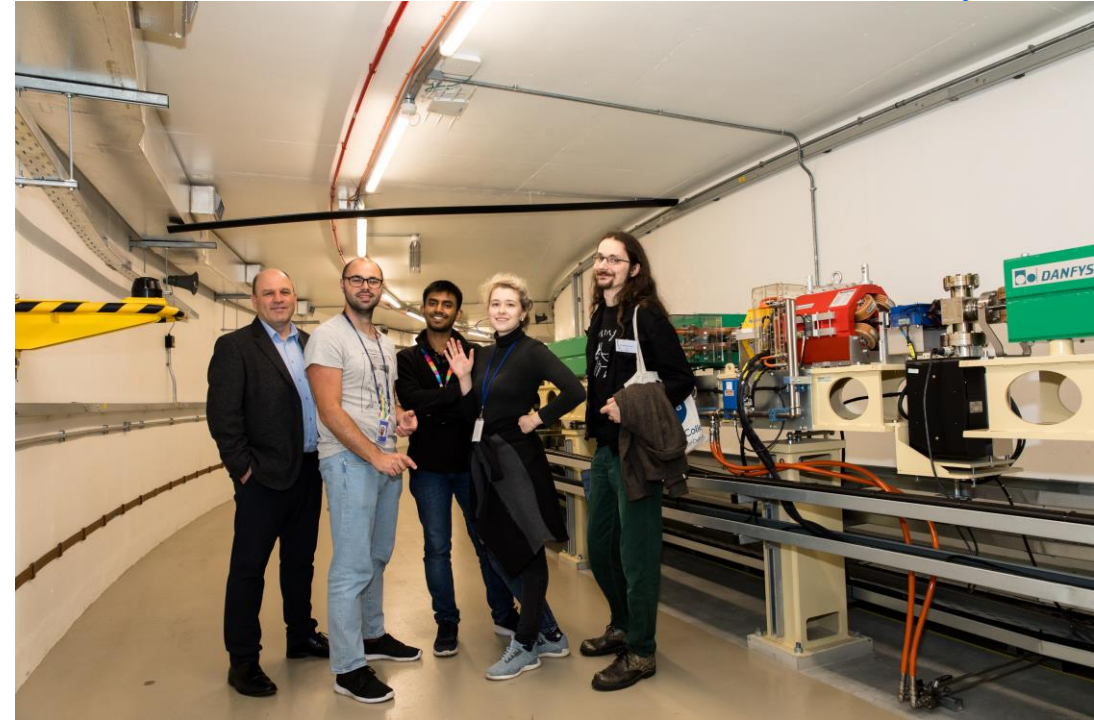
ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

Thanks to all who contributed!



Tours of ISIS and Diamond

- Two tour slots
- Max 75 at Diamond, 75 at ISIS at one time
- Tours of the synchrotrons are not frequent as they must be in maintenance periods
- Tours were for all attendees (including exhibitors)
- Thanks to the many tour guides who volunteered their time!



Career Journey Talks

- Helen Popland, Engineer @ STFC ISIS
- Lawrence Wang, Engineer @ FMB Oxford
- Dr. Kay Dewhurst, Senior Fellow @ CERN

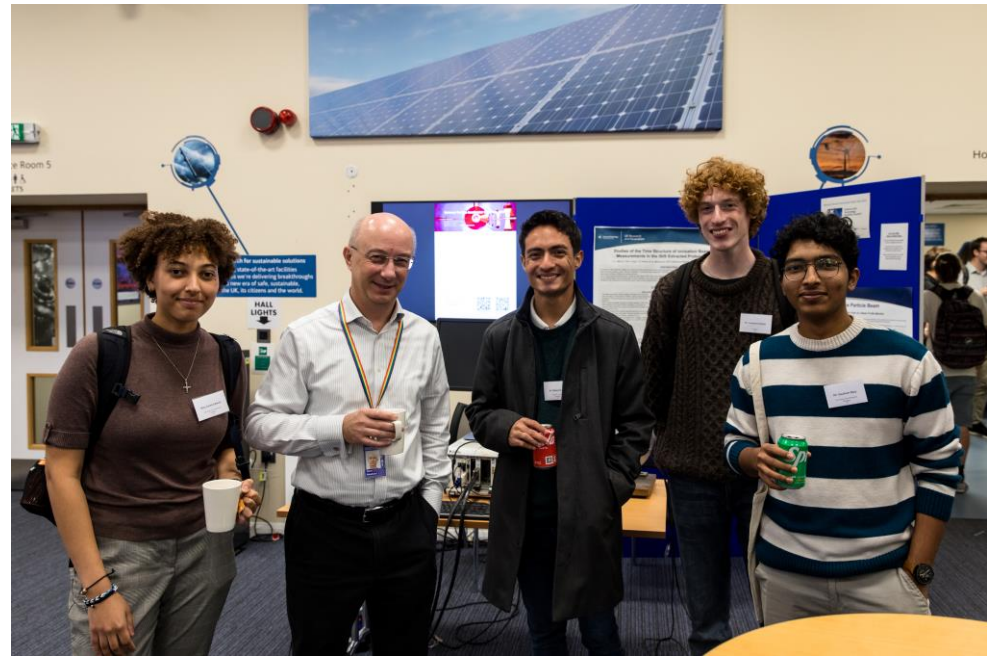


Panel Discussion

- Helen Popland, Engineer, STFC ISIS
- Lawrence Wang, Engineer, FMB Oxford
- Dr. Kay Dewhurst, Senior Fellow, CERN
- Prof. Dave Newbold, Director National Labs, STFC
- Dr. Haroon Rafique, Senior Accelerator Physicist, STFC ISIS



Networking Reception



Feedback (Organisational)

- Record of organising material, meeting minutes, mailing lists for student and exhibitor invites, etc. are all stored and available upon request for future events.
- Timing of event: must be within undergraduate calendar and not in exams.
 - End of October is a good time but doesn't give much time for advertising as close to start of term.
 - November may be more appropriate, doesn't affect December PhD application deadlines, however graduate scheme(s) may have deadlines in November.
- Timing of invites: 4 weeks prior, 1-week cutoff for registration
 - Suggest 6 weeks prior, 2-week cutoff to confirm catering numbers.



- Expected dropout rate of 50%
 - Actual dropout rate higher
 - Note higher dropout rates expected since COVID
 - Suggest working with institutes to arrange return transport from universities in future
 - Consider inviting more than 100% of capacity

Feedback

- Feedback from attendees was not recorded
 - Verbal feedback positive
 - Postgraduate students in different fields exploring options
 - Undergraduates seeking options and advice
 - Good level of interaction with exhibitors and tours
 - Questions to panel discussion largely covering unknown expectations in application process, qualifications, interview etc.
- Travel: two coaches were hired to take attendees from/to Didcot Rail station.
 - Only one was needed. Suggest ticketing coach seats in future.

Travel

96 coach seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Time	From	To
11:30	Didcot Parkway Station	RAL
18:30	RAL	Didcot Parkway Station

How to get to RAL: https://bit.ly/NPAOD23_1
Alternatively, bus timetables are available at oxfordbus.co.uk



Acknowledgements

Sponsors

- ISIS Neutron and Muon Source
- John Adams Institute
- The Institute of Physics: **Particle Accelerators and Beams Group**
- The Institute of Engineering and Technology: Particle Accelerator Engineering Network
- Diamond Light Source
- Cockcroft Institute

Organising Committee

- David Posthuma de Boer
- John Thomason
- Glenn Christian
- Alison Oliver
- Amy Griffin
- Graeme Burt
- Sara Fletcher
- Jonathan Oldfield
- Andrew Collins
- Steve West
- Haroon Rafique



ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

 www.isis.stfc.ac.uk

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 uk.linkedin.com/showcase/isis-neutron-and-muon-source

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Questions / Input

Ideas for future events welcome.

What would you find / have found useful at such an open day?

Are we missing opportunities to showcase?



ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

 www.isis.stfc.ac.uk

  [@isisneutronmuon](https://www.instagram.com/isisneutronmuon)

 [uk.linkedin.com/showcase/isis-neutron-and-muon-source](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/isis-neutron-and-muon-source)

